

Fiscal Highlights

Rape Kit Processing Follow-up - Gary R. Syphus

The Legislative Fiscal Analyst submitted the [Fiscal Note and Budget Item Follow-up Report](#) to the Executive Appropriations Committee. This report follows selected funded items and budget actions in past legislative sessions. One item reviewed in the report for follow-up was funding to address an anticipated increase in demand for processing rape kits.

The Legislature appropriated \$750,000 one-time to address an anticipated increase in submissions of untested rape kits (kits used by law enforcement to collect evidence where there is a claim of sexual assault) to the State Crime Lab by local law enforcement agencies. The State Crime Lab requested this amount based on an estimated 1,000 kits that would be submitted to the lab at a processing cost of \$750 per kit.

Toward the end of FY 2014, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) met with a working group organized by the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) and other community leaders to address a new process to manage the anticipated additional workload.

DPS sent out a Request for Proposal (RFP) and negotiated a contract with an out-of-state provider to process the anticipated additional workload. Thus far, 1,187 have been submitted by local law enforcement to the Crime Lab for testing. DPS began sending kits in November and as of the end of FY 2015, DPS had sent 305 of the approximate 1,200 kits to the contracted provider for processing. DPS plans on sending 200 this month (July) and each subsequent month until all kits are processed. Nonetheless, DPS estimates an additional 1,000 to 1,500 kits are still at the local level.

Since only 98 of the 305 submitted kits were fully processed and paid for as of the end of FY 2015, only \$65,000 of the \$750,000 was expended; however, other payments are pending. In addition, DPS expects that nearly all submitted kits will be processed by the end of calendar year 2015.

The Department reports that the results of the processing and testing will include:

1. Total number of kits processed;
2. Total number of eligible profiles developed in the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS); and
3. Total number of "hits" or matches with DNA already in the CODIS database.

The Department will prepare to report on progress related to this item by the beginning of the next legislative session, when DPS expects to complete this project.